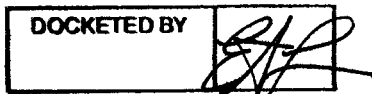


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Date: January 17, 2014

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RE: Innovations and Technological Developments, Docket No. E-00000J- 13-0375

Dear Commissioner Robert Burns,

ORIGINAL

Solar thermal is the solar technology that is accessible for all Arizonans. The Arizona Solar Thermal Support Group (the Group) is an unincorporated nonprofit association that was formed to provide information to the Arizona Corporation Commission and others with the goal of having Arizona become a world leader in the use of solar for heating water for homes, businesses and industry. Solar thermal is also being used to cool commercial buildings and future development may result in cost effective systems for solar thermal cooling of homes. We point to the following talking points:

- Due in part to the tremendous solar resource, Arizona ranks among the top locations in the world for the potential use of solar thermal, however, Arizona's number of installed solar thermal systems is far behind areas of the world that receive much less annual solar radiation. For example, approximately 15% of all homes in Austria have solar thermal systems while fewer than 1% of the homes in Arizona have a solar water heating system.

- In the early 1980's Arizona was a world leader in residential solar water heating (SWH) with over 100,000 systems installed. The SWH industry in Arizona included manufacturers and installers and supported tens of thousands of jobs in addition to providing Arizonans with low cost, clean, renewable energy. The Group believes that Arizona can quickly reclaim its position as a world leader in solar thermal.

- In addition to using solar thermal for heating water for homes, businesses and industry, it is also being used to cool commercial buildings. Future development may result in cost effective systems for solar thermal cooling of homes.

- Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in recent years to support the installation of solar electric systems ("PV") on homes in Arizona. The average cost of a residential PV System is over \$30,000 and only a small number of Arizonans have chosen to install these systems. The Group believes that most Arizonans want a solar system on their home, and that strong support for residential SWH would allow a large number of Arizonans to have access to solar energy in the near future.

The Arizona Solar Thermal Support Group (the Group) requests the opportunity to comment on the "Innovations and Technological Developments" docket opened by Commissioner Burns on November 4, 2013. This request is in response to the letter filed by Commissioner Burns on December 5, 2013. The proposed topics are important, and we suggest that Solar Thermal technology is equally critical to the future development of a balanced energy strategy in Arizona. The workshops hosted by the Arizona

Corporation Commission to discuss these topics are pertinent and timely. We welcome the opportunity to provide meaningful dialogue on this issue and look forward to having the opportunity to participate in this discussion along with the solar electric community. Our Group looks forward to participating in the discussions on these issues as we work together to develop a plan that will benefit all parties - Ratepayers, Utility Companies, and the Industry. The Solar Thermal Group will be available to recommend key industry leaders to participate and speak on the state of the Solar Thermal industry past, present, and future. Please advise for any further additional information, request for speakers, or technical information.

We appreciate your providing a much needed forum to discuss the future of our industry and it's impact on the State of Arizona and look forward to participating in this exciting dialogue on our industry's future in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Arizona Solar Group  
Milton M. Masson, Executive Director